

Chronology of Exploration of the Three Kings Islands

Leading events concerned with the discovery of the Three Kings Islands and the investigation of the flora, fauna, geology and ethnology of the group.

- 1643—Three Kings Islands discovered by Tasman. Maori inhabitants and cultivations noted, but no landings made. Heeres, J. E. (ed.) 1898, "Abel Janszoon Tasman's Journal, etc." Amsterdam, Frederik Muller.
- 1772—Marion du Fresne reported that Great Island was still inhabited, and described it as grassy with groves of bushes. Roth, H. L. (trans.) 1891, Crozet's Voyage to New Zealand, Tasmania, etc., 1771-1772. London, Truslove and Shirley.
- 1793—D'Entrecasteaux reported signs of occupation including a column of smoke arising from North East Island. Labillardiere, J. J., 1800, Relation du Voyage a la Recherche de La Perouse, etc. Paris, H. J. Jansen.
- 1835—Rev. W. G. Puckey visited Great Island, to induce the Maoris, who were reputed to be starving, to leave the island, but was unsuccessful.
Puckey, Rev. W. G., 1836—Missionary Register for 1836, p. 473.
- 1840 (c.)—End of Maori occupation of Great Island.
Cheeseman, T. F., 1888, Trans. N.Z. Inst. 20, pp. 145, 146.
- 1887—Mr. T. F. Cheeseman, from the N.Z. Govt. Steamer "Stella" made first botanical collection on Great Island.
Cheeseman, T. F., 1888, Trans. N.Z. Inst. 20, pp. 141-150.
- 1889—Mr. T. F. Cheeseman, from the N.Z. Govt. Steamer "Hinemoa" revisited Great Island and made a landing on South West Island.
Cheeseman, T. F., 1891, Trans. N.Z. Inst. 23, pp. 408-424.
- 1902—S.S. "Elingamite" wrecked, with considerable loss of life, on the Western King. Some survivors reached Great Island and, according to contemporary press accounts, fired parts of the island.
- 1907—Provision depot for castaways erected by New Zealand Government on Great Island. Captain J. Bollons of the N.Z. Govt. Steamer "Hinemoa" discovered the large land snail *Placostylus bollonsi* Suter.
Suter, H., 1907, Trans. N.Z. Inst. 40, p. 340.
- 1908—Three Kings purchased from Maori owners by the Crown.

- 1911—British Antarctic ("Terra Nova") Expedition dredged bottom material and collected surface samples from around the Three Kings Islands. Reports on most of the invertebrate phyla appeared in *Brit. Ant. ("Terra Nova") Expd. Zool.* vols. 1-8, 1914-1930.
- 1915—Dr. Th. Mortensen obtained dredgings from the vicinity of the Three Kings Islands while on the N.Z. Govt. Steamer "Hinemoa" in February, 1915. Reports on his material appeared in—Papers from Dr. Th. Mortensen's Pacific Expedition, 1914-16. *Vidensk Medd. fra Dansk naturh. Foren.*
- 1916—"Preliminary List of Mollusca from Dredgings taken off the Northern coasts of New Zealand." Mestayer, M. K., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 48, pp. 122-128.
- 1916—"List of Foraminifera dredged from 15' South of the Big King at 98 fathoms depth."
Mestayer, R. L., *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 48, pp. 128-130.
These two reports deal with dredgings obtained by Captain Bollons near the Three Kings.
- 1928—Lady Alice Fergusson and party, including Mr. W. M. Fraser of Whangarei, camped for three days on Great Island. Mr. Fraser wrote an account dealing with the topography, vegetation, bird life and ethnology of the island.
Fraser, W. M., 1929, *N.Z. Journ. Sci. & Tech.* 11 (3), pp. 148-156.
- 1930—Three Kings declared a sanctuary under Animals Protection and Game Act.
- 1932—R.R.S. "Discovery II" dredged a series of bottom samples at depths between 92 and 260 metres. Mr. A. W. B. Powell, who accompanied the expedition, reported on the mollusca, adding six new genera and 128 new species to the fauna. No landings were made.
Powell, A. W. B., 1937, *Discovery Reports*, 15, pp. 153-222.
- 1934—Auckland Museum Expedition to Three Kings Islands in auxiliary ketch "Will Watch." Botanical, zoological and geological collections made. In addition to the papers listed, several press accounts appeared in Auckland, as well as an article by R. A. Falla in the "N.Z. Observer."
Bartrum, J. A., 1936. Notes on the Geology of the Three Kings and other outlying Islands of Northern New Zealand. *N.Z. Journ. Sci. & Tech.* 18 (6), pp. 520-530.
Falla, R. A. A new *Anthornis* from the Three Kings Islands (this number).
Powell, A. W. B., 1935. Land Mollusca of the Three Kings Islands. *Proc. Malac. Soc. Lond.* 21 (4), pp. 243-248.
- 1945—H.M.N.Z.S. "Arbutus" landed an Auckland Museum party (Messrs. G. T. S. Baylis, G. A. Buddle, P. C. Bull, A. W. B. Powell and R. Wilson) for one week at Great Island. Collections

and observations of plants, molluscs and birds were made. Reports on the material in this number by Baylis, Buddle, Oliver, Powell and Turbott.

- 1946—New Zealand Government sent Internal Affairs Wild Life Branch Expedition to exterminate the goats on Great Island. Mr. E. G. Turbott, Auckland Museum, who accompanied the expedition, made insect, bird, plant and ethnographical collections and established quadrats for ecological investigation. Reports on the material in this number by Archey, Baylis, Forster, Oliver, Powell, Turbott, Salmon and Stephenson.
- 1947—Major M. E. Johnson and Major G. A. Buddle in 26ft. auxiliary keel yacht "Rosemary" landed during January upon Great Island, North East Island and South West Island. They found abundant signs of former Maori occupation on North East Island and made from there the first natural history collections. Reports on the material in this number by Buddle, Oliver and Powell.
- 1948—Major M. E. Johnson, Major G. A. Buddle and Dr. G. T. S. Baylis made landings on Great Island and North East Island in January from the "Rosemary." Further natural history collections were made and are reported upon in this number by Baylis and Powell.
- 1948—Mr. A. J. Black, of Dunedin, transported a Museum party of four (Messrs. Battey, Buddle, Powell and Turbott) in his motor vessel "Alert." Four hours were spent on Great Island.